(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) The details are as under:

S.No.	P.W. Region	Nos. of N.H.
(1)	Mumbai	3, 4, 4B, 8, 17, 204.
(2)	Pune	4, 9, 13, 50, 204, 211.
(3)	Nasik	3, 6, 6 (Extn.), 50, 211.
(4)	Nagpur	6, 7, 16, 69.
(5)	Aurangabad	211.

(b) to (d) National Highways are constructed to connect important cities and towns in various States for facilitating unimpeded long distance transportation of goods and passengers. However, some of these NHs pass through Adivasis area and hence Advasis would be also benefited by these.

Development of Port at Pondicherry

576. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Pondicherry made any proposal to develop harbour in Pondicherry; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to approve the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) No proposal has been received from the Government of Pondicherry to develop Harbour during 1998-99 and 1999-2000. Moreover, as per the provisions of Indian Ports Act 1908, the responsibility for development of Harbour/Minor Port lies entirely with the State Government/UT concerned, which have adminsitrative control on such ports. The funds for

development of Harbour/Minor Port are placed by the Planning Commission in the Budget Grants of the State Government/UT concerned.

Corporatisation of Ports

577. MISS MABEL REBELLO:
SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 239 given in the Rajya Sabha on 14th December, 1999 and state:

(a) whether the corporatisation of ports will grant them more autonomy; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Corporatisation of Ports involves converting them into companies which will have the independence of authority and decision making. It aims at granting operational freedom and flexibility to management in taking commercial and investment decisions. The Government control in these companies is proposed to be kept at necessary minimum level.

Recommendations of National Commission for SC/ST in IRCC

578. SHRI R. N. ARYA:
SHRI GANDHI AZAD:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Commission for SC/ST had issued directives to I.R.C.C. on 20th January, 1998 and 22nd January, 1999 after inspecting the records of corporation relating to service matters;

(b) if so, the details of the directives issued alongwith those implemented so far and those still to be implemented;

(c) by when Government propose to fully implement the Commission's directives, otherwise the reasons therefor;